

Message Text

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SUBJ: KWANGMING DAILY TO FOCUS ON SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

1. SUMMARY. THE KWANGMING DAILY, ONE OF PEKING'S TWO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE TO FOREIGNERS, HAS ANNOUNCED A CHANGE OF EDITORIAL FOCUS EFFECTIVE MAY 1. BEGINNING ON THAT DATE THE KWANGMING DAILY WILL ONLY PRINT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEWS OF "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE"; THE PAPER WILL BE DEVOTED INSTEAD TO "PROPAGANDIZING THE LINE, DIRECTION AND POLICY IN THE REALM OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION." TO ACCOMPLISH THIS THE PAPER WILL "VIGOROUSLY POPULARIZE" SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM ABROAD. THE MAY 1 ISSUE OF THE PAPER, WHICH ALREADY REFLECTS THE CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW FORMAT, ALSO CARRIES SUMMARIZED REMARKS FROM A FORUM HELD BY THE PAPER TO DISCUSS THE NEW EDITORIAL POLICY. VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S NAME FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THESE REMARKS, LEAVING NO DOUBT IN THE READER'S MIND THAT TENG IS THE DRIVING FORCE IN NATIONAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POLICY. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE KWANGMING DAILY, ONE OF PEKING'S TWO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE OPENLY TO FOREIGNERS, HAS ANNOUNCED A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF EDITORIAL FOCUS EFFECTIVE MAY 1. PREVIOUSLY A 4-PAGE DAILY WHICH EMPHASIZED LITERARY AND ARTISTIC THEMES WHILE CARRYING 50-75 PERCENT OF THE MATERIAL IN PEOPLE'S DAILY, THE KWANGMING DAILY WILL HENCEFORTH CONFINE ITS REPORTING

ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NEWS TO ITEMS OF "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE" ONLY. IN SHORT, IT WILL CEASE BEING A PALE REPLICA OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED ARTICLES INTENDED FOR INTELLECTUALS.

3. THE PAPER'S MAY 1 EDITORIAL, HEADLINED IN RED CHARACTERS, EXPLAINS THAT THE KWANGMING DAILY WILL HENCEFORTH BE DEVOTED TO "PROPAGANDIZING THE LINE, DIRECTION AND POLICY IN THE REALM OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION." TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL THE PAPER WILL "VIGOROUSLY POPULARIZE" SCIENTIFIED KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM ABROAD. TYING THE CHANGE IN EDITORIAL FOCUS TO THE NATIONAL GOAL OF ACHIEVING THE "FOUR MODERNIZATIONS" BY THE YEAR 2000, THE EDITORIAL APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL CADRES, FROM THE "BROAD MASSES" OF INTELLECTUALS, AND FROM THE PEOPLE IN MAKING THE NEWSPAPER A SUCCESS.

4. THE MAY 1 ISSUE OF THE PAPER -- STILL 4 PAGES AND AVAILABLE TO FOREIGNERS -- REFLECTS THE CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW FORMAT. WHILE THERE ARE A FEW ARTICLES WHICH COULD BE TERMED "LITERARY" IN ORIENTATION, THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY (MAY 1 INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY) NOR ARE THERE ANY ARTICLES ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS. INSTEAD THERE ARE ITEMS ON MANUFACTURING OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, AN EXPLANATION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAUSES OF THE DROUGHT IN NORTH CHINA, A PHOTOGRAPH OF A NEWLY-INSTALLED TELEPHONE/TELEVISION SYSTEM IN A CHINESE POST OFFICE, AND ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

5. THE MAY 1 ISSUE ALSO CARRIES CUMMARIZED REMARKS FROM A FORUM HELD BY THE PAPER TO DISCUSS THE NEW EDITORIAL POLICY. AMONG THE NOTABLES ATTENDING THE FORUM WERE PEKING UNIVERSITY VICE RECTOR AND PHYSICIST CHOU PEI-YUAN; CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY DIRECTOR LIU TA-KANG AND INSTITUTE OF GENETICS DIRECTOR HU HAN; GOLDBACK THEOREM HERO OF CAS MATHEMATICIAN CHEN CHING-JUN; HOPEH PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN CHANG CHENG-HSIEN; AND SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL VICE CHAIRMAN YANG KAI. THE NAME OF TENG HSIAO-PING -- ONCE REFERRED TO AS "BELOVED VICE CHAIRMAN" TENG -- FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THESE REMARKS, LEAVING NO DOUBT IN THE READER'S MIND THAT TENG IS THE DRIVING FORCE IN NATIONAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POLICY AND THAT IT IS TENG'S SPEECHES TO THE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION CONFERENCES WHICH SHOULD BE STUDIED FOR GUIDANCE ON THE NEW COURSE.

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